

# TEXAS ARCHITECT

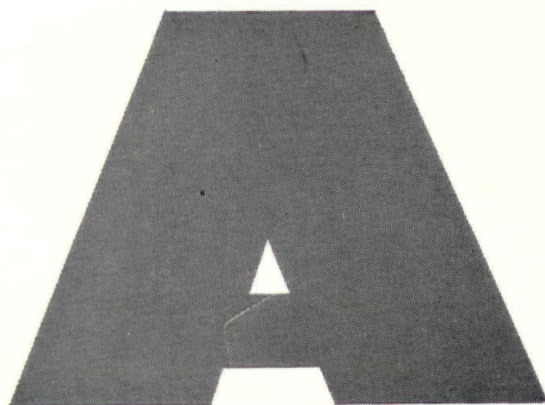
AMERICAN ARCHITECTURE

OCT 28 1958

LIBRARY

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE TEXAS SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTS

OCTOBER  
1958



- ▶ Need For Uniform Code  
Of Building Requirements
- ▶ Representative Selection,  
Panhandle Chapter, AIA
- ▶ Plans For TSA Convention  
At San Antonio Ready



SEE PAGE 3



WHEN AMERICA BUILDS FOR ECONOMY . . . IT BUILDS WITH CONCRETE



Sears, Roebuck & Company's Tampa store . . .

**concrete folded plate roof achieves  
large, unobstructed floor area**

One of the basic requirements here was to achieve unobstructed floor space with economy. Architects Weed, Russell, Johnson & Associates found the answer by using a concrete shell in the form of a folded plate. This construction made it possible to span the entire floor area with only one interior row of columns . . . and suspend the second floor from the roof. The result: 163,715 square feet of *fully flexible* floor space, so important to any retail selling operation.

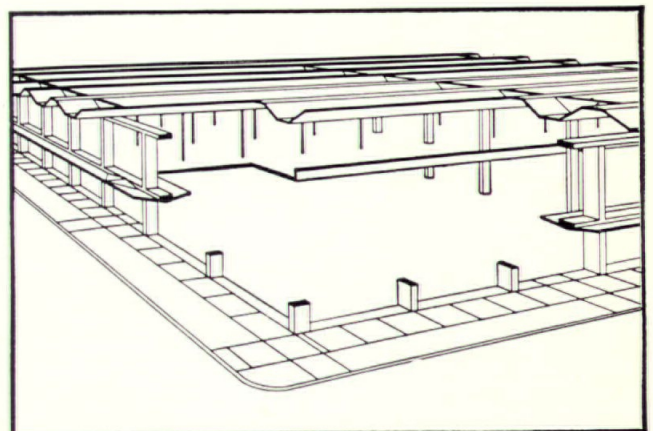
Folded plate design is, in itself, unique and interesting. And only concrete can give the added boldness of the wide, cantilevered overhang.

It's one more example of the way new uses of concrete are bringing big economies and added vitality to both conventional and modern architecture.

**PORTLAND CEMENT ASSOCIATION**

110 East Eighth Street, Austin 1, Texas

*A national organization to improve and extend the uses of concrete*



**FOR STRUCTURES...**

**MODERN**

**concrete**

Isometric view showing 125-foot c on c spacing of main columns. Floor slab is supported by 3-inch plates welded together to form a hanger. Hangers are spaced 25 feet c on c.



# THE TEXAS ARCHITECT

VOL. 9

OCTOBER, 1958

NUMBER 8

Official Publication of  
THE TEXAS SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTS

The Texas Regional Organization of The American Institute of Architects

David C. Baer, AIA-TSA, 1200 Bissonnet, Houston ..... Editor  
Patrick J. Nicholson ..... Editorial Counselor  
John G. Flowers, Jr., Perry-Brooks Building, Austin ..... Managing Editor

## PUBLICATION BOARD THE TEXAS ARCHITECT

David C. Baer, Chairman, AIA-TSA Houston  
Reginald Roberts, TSA-AIA ..... San Antonio  
R. Max Brooks, TSA-AIA ..... Austin  
Donald E. Jarvis, TSA-AIA ..... Dallas  
Albert S. Golemon, TSA-AIA ..... Houston  
Philip D. Creer, TSA-AIA ..... Austin  
Karl Kamrath, TSA-AIA ..... Houston

### Chapter Representatives

Brazos ..... William E. Nash  
Central Texas ..... Eugene George  
Coastal Bend ..... Walter Wilde  
Dallas ..... Donald E. Jarvis  
El Paso ..... Robert D. Garland, Jr.  
Fort Worth ..... Edward L. Wilson  
Houston ..... Harwood Taylor  
Lower Rio Grande Valley ..... Walter Bowman  
North Texas ..... Ray Arnold  
Panhandle ..... John Ward  
San Antonio ..... Leo Diehlmann, Jr.  
West Texas ..... Woodlief Brown

Texas Architectural Foundation, 327 Perry-Brooks Building, Austin, Texas

## TEXAS SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTS OFFICERS

Reginald H. Roberts, President San Antonio  
Robert P. Woltz, Vice-President Fort Worth  
Jack M. Corgan, Second ..... Dallas  
Vice-President ..... Dallas  
Arthur Fehr, Secy.-Treas. .... Austin  
John G. Flowers, Jr., Exec. Director ..... Austin

### Directors

William M. Collier, Jr. .... Abilene Chapter  
William E. Nash ..... Brazos Chapter  
Victor G. Probst ..... Central Texas Chapter  
Ben E. Christian ..... Coastal Bend Chapter  
Roscoe P. DeWitt ..... Dallas Chapter  
Robert D. Garland, Jr. .... El Paso Chapter  
Hubert Crane ..... Fort Worth Chapter  
Thompson McCleary ..... Houston Chapter  
W. C. Baxter ..... Lower Rio Grande Chapter  
Ray C. Arnold ..... North Texas Chapter  
Wilbur Kent ..... Northeast Texas Chapter  
Robert E. Hucker ..... Panhandle Chapter  
Raymond Phelps, Jr. .... San Antonio Chapter  
George L. Ingram ..... Southeast Texas Chapter  
Woodlief Brown ..... West Texas Chapter  
R. Max Brooks ..... A.I.A. Director  
Fred J. MacKie, Jr. .... Past President

herein, and requests publication credit be given THE TEXAS ARCHITECT, and author of material when indicated. Publications which normally pay for editorial material are requested to give consideration to the author of reproduced by-lined feature material.

Appearance of names and pictures of products and services in either editorial copy or advertising does not constitute an endorsement of same by either the Texas Society of Architects or the American Institute of Architects

Published monthly by the Texas Society of Architects in Houston. Subscription price, 50c per year, in advance. Copyrighted 1951 by the T.S.A., and title registration applied for with the U. S. Patent Office.

Editorial contributions, correspondence, and advertising invited by the Editor. Due to the nature of the publication, editorial contributions cannot be purchased. Publisher gives permission for reproduction of all or part of editorial material

## Uniform Building Codes Badly Needed

Efforts of the American Standards Association to obtain a uniform set of building code requirements for one- and two-family houses across the U.S. should be widely acclaimed and supported. As reported in the last issue of the TEXAS ARCHITECT, the long-delayed adoption of such codes could result in savings up to \$1,000 per home once the architect is freed to design houses without archaic or unnecessary requirements.

A general conference in New York last month, attended by representatives of almost 100 national organizations with interests in home building, failed to take definitive action but began concrete exploration of the complex problems involved. It is hoped that the next step will be a vote to undertake an ASA project on the specific problem of standard building code requirements.

Known as the national clearinghouse for standards in the U.S., the American Standards Association enjoys well-merited respect. Numbering more than 2,000 company members as well as 119 trade associations and professional societies, it can be a potent force for the long-needed development of voluntary standards throughout the nation. Among the active professional members of ASA is the American Institute of Architects, and the roster includes a wide cross-section both of professional groups and of representatives from business, industry, and labor.

Laymen could well take an active interest in this move for voluntary uniform standards, for they stand to profit most from its success.

## The President's Letter

By  
Reginald  
H.  
Roberts

President,  
Texas Society  
of Architects



The general theme of education has been selected for the TSA convention at San Antonio October 29-31. Education in this day and time is an on-going process that never stops. It involves everyone, enriching lives both by increasing productivity and earning power and by adding to the individual's ability to understand and appreciate.

Dramatic incidents such as the recent case, widely publicized, of a general beginning his university training at 60, tend to underscore how the public has come to accept the concept of education from the cradle to the grave. There are instances in almost every community of entire families attending different schools at varying levels. One of the favorite publicity photographs for college press bureaus is the mother (or grandmother) returning to the campus to study alongside her offspring.

The professional practitioner, and particularly the architect, must bear in mind at all times the responsibility to continue both his general and his technical and professional education. He is confronted on all sides by tremendous advances in materials, design, construction methods, and techniques. These lead to changes which can proceed at great speed, affecting not only the practitioner but those whom he serves in the community and nation.

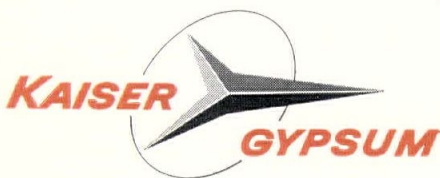
Meetings such as the annual TSA convention, and the sessions at San Antonio mark the beginning of a second decade for TSA, give the architect a dual opportunity to advance his professional knowledge. Formal learning is provided through seminar sessions, speeches, and exhibits. Just as important, however, in the educational process at such gatherings, can be the opportunity to associate with colleagues from the architectural as well as related professions, and to discuss developments and problems in the field directly with them.



# 2 SOUND ACHIEVEMENTS

## NEW KAISER FIR-TEX ACOUSTICAL TILES

Even the holes are new in Kaiser Fir-Tex acoustical tiles! Our unique new drilling process produces more and cleaner holes per tile, assures high Noise Reduction Coefficients. Two new patterns—Regular (529 holes/sq. foot) and Casual (316 holes/sq. foot—in three diameters)—combine with smaller beveled edges to help you achieve continuous perforated ceiling effects. Available now in  $\frac{1}{2}$ ",  $\frac{5}{8}$ ",  $\frac{3}{4}$ ", and 1" thicknesses, in 12" x 12", 12" x 24" or 24" x 24" tiles. Contact your nearest Kaiser Fir-Tex Representative for data bulletins for your files.



**KAISER GYPSUM COMPANY, INC.** Kaiser Building—1924 Broadway, Oakland, California



# Representative Selection, Panhandle Chapter, AIA

**PROJECT:** Sanctuary and Classroom Addition, Washington Avenue  
Christian Church, Amarillo, Texas

**ARCHITECTS:** Clayton B. Shiver — TSA-AIA, Amarillo  
Russell A. Megert — TSA-AIA, Amarillo

**ENGINEER:** Clayton B. Shiver, Amarillo

**GENERAL CONTRACTOR:** Page & Richardson, Amarillo

On a busy thoroughfare in Amarillo, a church building with exterior architecture that would inspire a desire for worship in those passing. A nave that would enhance the overall

## Houston Building Of Residences Up 19% Over July, 1957 Total

July contracts for future construction in the residential building category in the metropolitan Houston area amounted to \$16,700,000, an increase of 19 per cent compared to July 1957, E. F. Seaman of F. W. Dodge Corporation, reported.

The metropolitan area consists of Harris County.

Dollar volume of contracts in the non-residential building category in July amounted to \$35,435,000, up substantially from July 1957.

July total building contracts, residential plus non-residential, amounted to \$52,135,000, also up substantially from the like 1957 month. (Heavy engineering construction contracts are not included in the total building figure.)

The cumulative total of building contracts for the first seven months of 1958 amounted to \$205,114,000, up 34 per cent from the like 1957 period. A breakdown by the major building categories showed: non-residential at \$104,883,000, up substantially, and residential at \$100,231,000, up 4 per cent.

## VA Foreclosures Up 23% For 1958

Foreclosures on VA-financed homes increased 23.2% from 2,604 to 3,209 in the first five months of 1958 from the same period of 1957, according to HOUSE & HOME. But when stacked against the number of VA loans outstanding—3,886,960 at the end of May—foreclosures are up from only 0.067% of all mortgages to 0.082%.

structure, imparting a feeling of awe to those entering. These were among the design criteria expressed to the architects by both the minister and the building committee of the Washington Avenue Christian Church in Amarillo.

### Exterior Focal Point

The exterior focal point was to become a large vertical glass area in the narthex, which is balanced by the massive campanile and cross. A large glass area and massive panel doors, the exposed laminated beams seemingly coming out of the ground, give further feeling of height. The narthex achieves additional height on the interior by the use of skylights. This is

meant to create a feeling of reverence as the narthex is entered through a large glass vestibule and covered porch. The vestibule is spacious, glassed on all sides. It is intended to serve as an area for friendly greetings and conversational groups.

A feeling of great height is evident when entering the nave. This is achieved by the use of steep laminated arches. It is further expressed by the use of a white acoustical material.

The large stone cross is 17' in height. It is set in ledgestone to give symmetry to the chancel and to make the communion table in front of the pulpit an interior focal point.

### Simple Materials Used

Simple materials of brick, stone, wood and glass are used both on the exterior and interior of the structure.

Planters behind the choir and in front of the baptistry give feelings of depth in the chancel. The choir enters the chancel from behind the planter screens.

The Baptistry is moved from the rear to the front of the chancel, where it can be the center of interest when in use while making the congregation constantly aware of this significant part of their worship.



## Award-Winning Amarillo Church

An interior view of the new sanctuary and classroom addition to the Washington Avenue Christian Church in Amarillo, showing details including exposed laminated beams, skylights, massive campanile and cross, and other design features. Architects for the structure, which was chosen by members of the Panhandle Chapter, AIA as representative of recent architectural work in the area, are Clayton B. Shiver and Russell A. Megert, both of TSA-AIA of Amarillo.



# FAT FOR THE FIRES

By Hubertus Junius

Architecture is the oldest of the professions, (see A. I. A. Journal, September 1953, "Adam Before Eve") yet unlike law and medicine it has no experience literature.

Architects had advanced to the glory of Nineveh before Hammurabi wrote the first code of laws and the Greeks were still trying to cure dandruff by offering goose livers to Hermes long after Athens was attracting tourist traffic by its architecture.

Your author, due to a slight case of senility and much blatant flattery by George Pierce, is at this time engaged in pioneering the A.I.A. "Log Book" program in North Texas. Many of the trainees lack professional education and I find no literature to which I can refer them for the techniques of our profession.

Architects by and large do not write and those who attempt it most frequently are trying to justify rather than inform.

## Not A Medieval Guild

Certain design processes are taught in the schools but those architects known for their design ability modify and change these standard processes in many ways and develop individual approaches to design problems which could be of great value to the student. We are no longer a medieval guild protecting trade secrets and it is time we followed others in the publication of the detailed techniques perfected by our top men.

There must be a beginning to all such things and I shall offer myself as a sacrifice to an idea. I shall set forth as meticulously as possible my own travail in designing a building. This is a bate rather than a bargain, done in the hope that worthier men, and better designers, will contribute their ideas. Scoff if you must but remember I developed these processes before the most of you were a flickering gleam in the eyes of your fathers and these methods have been a dependable source of beans and bacon for almost a half century.

## Step By Step

Here it is:

1. I allow twenty four hours to recover from the shock of having landed

the job.

2. I mull. I sit and think and in spite of the ideas prevalent among my associates, I do think. Most designers learn to use a mental sheet of paper for this stage and others doodle. I never pick up a pencil until things have taken form in my mind. This stage may last for a day or two or for a week or more. Nothing very finite occurs but an infinite number of nebulous forms flit through my subconscious and like univac it seems to produce at least a starting point, though unlike univac a nebulous one.

3. This is the first doodle period. With a pad of cross section paper I try various arrangements of plans for area and fitness for the site. I use tracing cross section paper so that this may be more easily accomplished, and I draw to the scale of the site survey. Sooner or later I come up with a plan which satisfies the requirements of area, traffic patterns and relation of functions. At the end of this stage I submit a small scale floor plan to the owner with the information that his original cost estimates will be about 20% too low. I omit the subsequent scene as not pertinent to the processes of design. The results of this interview however, determine whether or not this is a situation or a termination of my design process.

4. An apprenticeship under David R. Williams in the early twenties conditioned me to the second doodle stage. This consists of many small sketches for mass, done on my business cards with a 4b pencil. I have designed these cards with my name high on the card leaving room below and on the back for these sketches.

5. Once satisfied with the mass of the building I have the drafting room block out a perspective in outline, locating the door and window openings. I place sheets of "layout" paper over this perspective outline and work in whatever color medium strikes my fancy but generally in colored pencils. I may make a few larger scale studies of important details depending on the budget or the need for further elaboration.

When this stage is completed I take all of this data to a professional deli-

neator with a tendency toward clairvoyance and am constantly surprised at how much better it looks than I had hoped.

This is a road map of my thinking during a design problem. If I have seemed a bit facetious, it is because this was intended as a format rather than a formula. I do not recommend my own bad habits but if they will serve as bait to get a like outline from such men as Howard Meyer, Karl Kamrath, Donald Barthelme, or men of their ilk, this revealing paucity will not have been in vain.

"Fat for the Fires" invites those who have felt the need of such experience literature to contribute this or like information. Experience with new materials and failures of old ones. Methods of procedure, of client relationship, ways of doing things better or new things to do. If the Texas Architect can create such a reservoir of facts and experiences, it may become the best-read architectural journal in America and we can all retire as associate editors on the proceeds from our revelations.

P.S. Be as anonymous as you please but tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth.

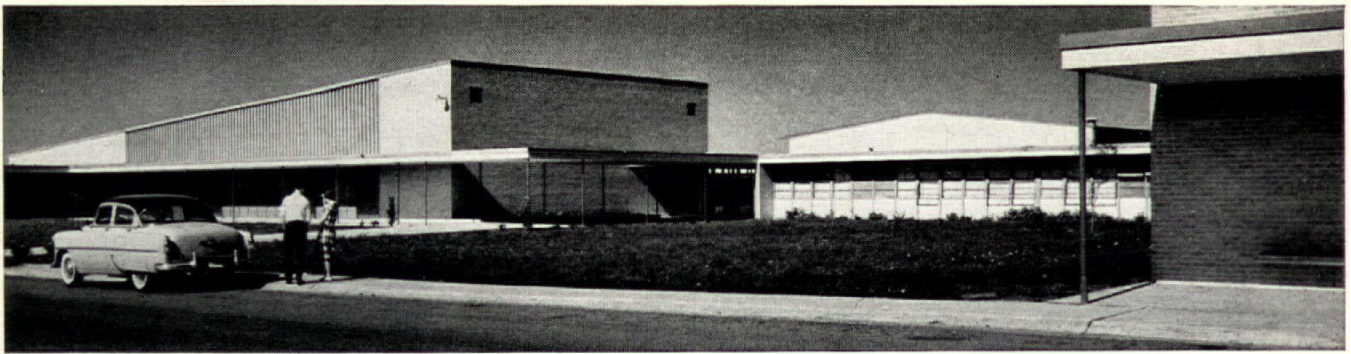
## Merger Of Engineering Societies In Heating, Air-Conditioning Planned

Councils of the American Society of Heating and Air-Conditioning Engineers and the American Society of Refrigerating Engineers have approved in principle a method of merging the two Societies. The ASRE members in attendance at their 54th Annual Meeting authorized submission of this proposal for balloting by the ASRE membership.

E. R. Queer, ASHAE President, and Cecil Boling, ASRE President, further announced that present plans contemplate the proposal for a merger and proxy ballots will be officially mailed to the members of both Societies in late October.

Full particulars of the merger plan will be mailed to the members of both ASHAE and ASRE. Ballots will be taken in person or by proxy at the 45th Semi-Annual Meeting of ASRE in New Orleans, La., on December 1, 1958 and at a Special Meeting of the ASHAE membership on December 1, 1958.





## STRAN-STEEL JOISTS REDUCE HEIGHT AND COSTS OF VICTORIA SCHOOL



*Seventy tons of Stran-Steel joists and beams frame the classrooms of Crain Junior High School, Victoria, Texas.*

Stran-Steel joists are designed to fit snugly between the flanges of Stran-Steel wide flange beams, as shown in the diagram of a typical installation below. This eliminates the need for dropped ceilings or boxed beams and reduces height per floor by one course of bricks or equivalent. Nailable Stran-Steel joists save time and labor, too. Metal lath and roof decking can quickly and easily be attached with ordinary hammer and nails. No welding is necessary. And pre-punched holes speed conduit installations.

Nailable joists and wide flange beams are part of a complete Stran-Steel building system of space saving structural components for commercial or industrial construction, single or multi-floor. Its unique advantages and design flexibility make it well worth investigating. For specifications and case histories, mail the coupon now or contact your nearest Texas dealer.

*Architect: Fehr and Granger, Austin, Texas*

*Stran-Steel Dealer: General Supply Co., Inc., San Antonio*

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, SEE YOUR STRAN-STEEL DEALER OR SEND THE COUPON**

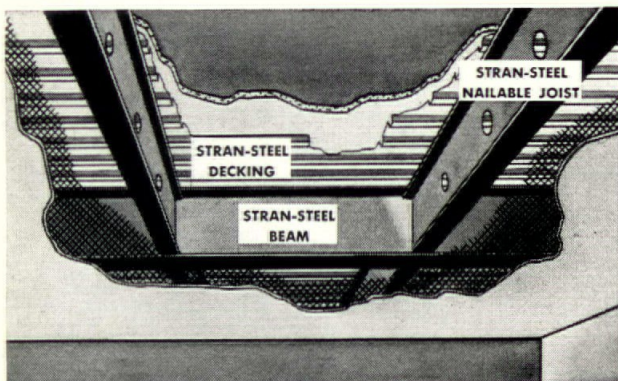
DALLAS, Blue Diamond Co., 2722 Logan St., Hamilton 8-1331

HOUSTON, Buie Building Material Co., 7400 Washington Ave.,  
P.O. Box 13215, Underwood 4-7781

LUBBOCK, Steel Built Products Co., P.O. Box 1261, 711 Erskine  
Road, PO 2-5800

SAN ANTONIO, General Supply Co., Inc., 227 S. Salado, P.O. Box  
4368, Station A, Capitol 6-7631

SAN ANGELO, McRan, Inc., P.O. Box 3036, Phone 6288



Dept. 42-61

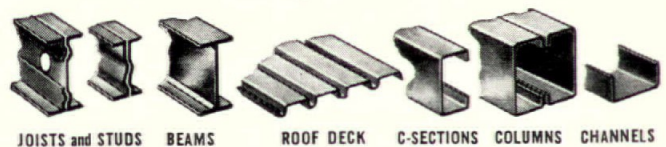
**STRAN-STEEL CORPORATION**

Detroit 29, Michigan • Division of



**NATIONAL STEEL CORPORATION**

### Stran-Steel Architectural Products Mean Construction Savings For You



**Stran-Steel Corporation**

**2219 Bellefontaine, Houston 25, Texas**

Please send your Architectural Products Catalogs.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Company \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zone \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_





137 Walnut Hill Village SALES AGENTS: Texas—S. W. Greer, P. O. Box 7327, Houston, Oak Cliff Window Specialties, 2202 N. Beckle



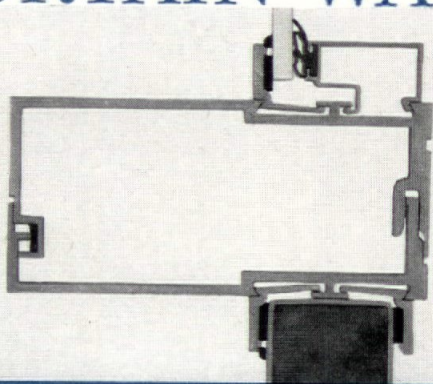
DESIGN FREEDOM

SOULÉ' SERIES

3100 SPLIT MULLION

ALUMINUM

CURTAIN WALL



Soulé series 3100 split mullion curtain wall systems offer economy, amazing speed of erection and proven weather resistance. Factory assembled story-height units are positively weather-sealed. Erection is faster, with minimum field assembly. 3100 split mullion aluminum curtain wall by Soulé achieves thinnest sight lines, helps architects create outstanding architectural effects at low cost. Sales, design, manufacture and installation by Soulé assures you "one-source" responsibility. Call for a 3100 presentation today.

**Soulé**

LEADER IN METAL WINDOWS

SOULÉ' STEEL COMPANY

S. R. A. Gilbert Co., 432 Brooks Bldg., Austin, Oklahoma—Murray R. Womble Co., P. O. 3323, Oklahoma City, 216 E. 16th St., Tulsa



# Architect Exports Know-how With Color

Architects, when exporting some solid American know-how on large office buildings, sometimes exert a bit of leadership toward brightening the local scene.

A multi-story office building designed to brighten a usually cloudy South American city is featured in *Architectural Record*, F. W. Dodge Corporation.

Architect Lathrop Douglass, after choosing a suitable site for Edificio Esso on one of the main avenues of Bogota, Colombia — a site facing a

handsome park with a grand view of the Andes—designed color into the exterior of the building. He hoped to establish a trend toward color in buildings which have been colorless and drab traditionally.

Opaque glass spandrels of Edificio Esso are deep blue; metal fenestration grid is dark brown with white sash; tile end walls are in a variegated pattern of white, tan and dark brown. Other spots of color enliven the overall effect.

## See An Architect If You Are A Prospective Home Owner!

The first job of an architect is to understand what you have in mind for your home so he can suggest ideas that will match your house to your hobbies, your children, and you.

If you are considering an older house, he examines it for structural soundness, plan convenience, neighborhood values, potential worth, and

schools.

If you're going to build a new house, but don't yet know where, he'll help you choose a suitable lot to fit the size and type of house you're planning, and your budget. If your lot's already chosen, he'll visit the property to determine the local conditions firsthand: orientation, grade,

The masses of the building express three main types of space in the program. At ground floor level there is a two-story unit for medical and personnel departments, and a rental unit of similar size for a branch bank. The main office building straddles these two bases, leaving an open space through the building to develop a sense of enjoying the views from either side.

The frame is reinforced ribbed concrete designed closely for lightness and economy.

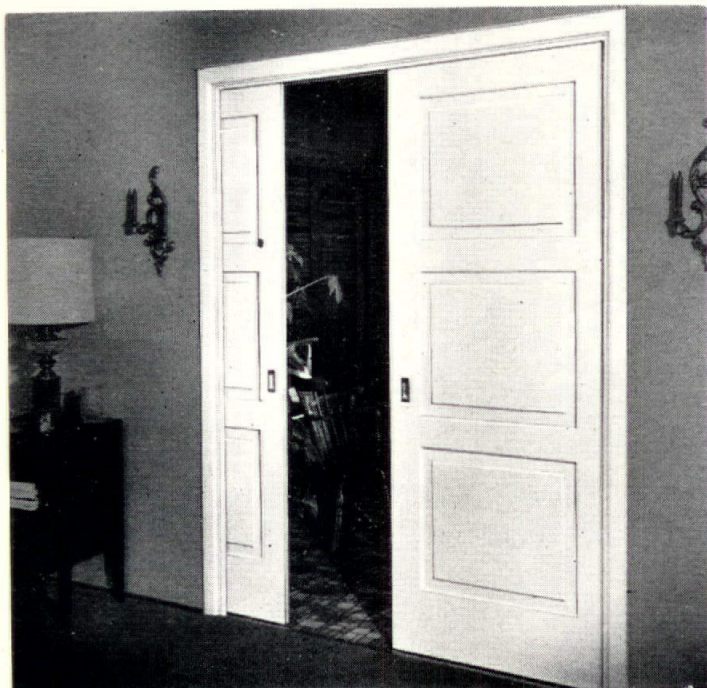
breeze, view, excavation conditions, and any special considerations.

Next, your architect develops rough sketches and final working drawings, which he thoroughly discusses with you. Then, a group of builders, selected by you and the architect, bid on the plans and specifications. The architect helps you choose the builder who will give the most performances for the lowest price.

The architect then follows construction progress closely, keeps builder payment records and guarantees.

An architect will save you money in increased value of your house, not only in dollars but in more family pleasure.

## SPECIFY SMOOTH WORKING



## Sliding Doors

Your clients will appreciate IDEAL Sliding Doors because they increase usable floor space and because they work so smoothly and quietly. Unit includes door frame, stops, track, door guides, hanger hardware and rollers. Aluminum-alloy track keeps doors lined up and rolling smoothly. Rollers have self-lubricating Oil-lite bronze bearings to assure quiet and easy operation. Please your clients by specifying modern, practical IDEAL Sliding Doors.

**SOLD AT  
RETAIL LUMBER YARDS**

**Made in the South's largest standard millwork factory**



## Buffalo Bayou Bridge Wins \$10,000 Design Award

Awards announced by The James F. Lincoln Arc Welding Foundation in a recent welded bridge design competition indicate that taxpayers are getting a break on their highway money being spent for bridges. The award designs, made for welded bridges now being built on the new interstate and defense highways, not only showed substantial savings in steel and cost, but also indicated that welded bridges were more beautiful and easier to maintain than riveted structures.

Farland C. Bundy and Charles S. Matlock, engineers with the Bridge Division, Texas Highway Department, Austin, received the \$10,000 First Award in the recently judged \$50,000 bridge design competition for welded bridges for interstate and defense highways, sponsored by The Thomas F. Lincoln Arc Welding Foundation, Cleveland, Ohio.

Bundy and Matlock shared the award for the design of the recently completed Buffalo Bayou Bridge in Houston, a 668 ft. all-welded continuous plate girder bridge. Designs were judged on the basis of economical use of labor and steel, appearance, cost, general quality of detail, and other advantages of welded construction. The designers described their bridge as "one of the longest welded bridges" an on which "unit prices bid were among the lowest." The bridge has also received recognition in a competition for the most beautiful steel bridges erected in 1957, sponsored by the American Institute of Steel Construction.

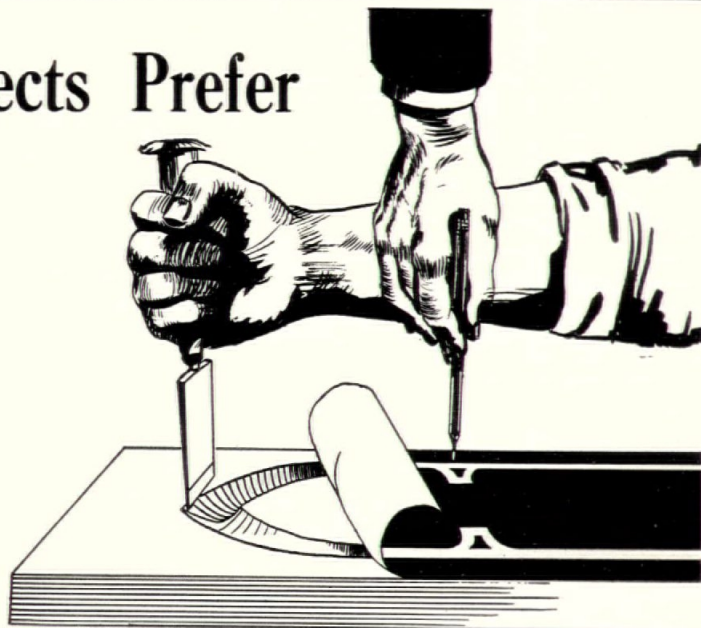
### Dallas-Fort Worth Winner

The Lincoln Foundation made two Second Awards of \$7,500 each. Co-designers Dale C. Hoffman and Dwight H. Sparks of Columbus, Ohio, received one for the design of a 4 span 398 ft. haunched girder bridge. The designers estimated that a comparable riveted bridge would have required 24 per cent more steel. A team of Turnpike Engineers in Dallas, Texas, Joe C. Bridgefarmer, Douglas A. Nettleton, and William Llewellyn Powell, received the other for the design of an all-welded arch bridge on the Dallas-Fort Worth Turnpike. The

192 ft. span of 4 welded box girder arch ribs is claimed to be the first bridge of this type in the United States. Ease of welded fabrication for this type structure permitted completion of fabrication and erection in three months and four days. Both of the second award designs emphasized the contribution of welded construction to the aesthetic requirements of the particular sites for which they were planned.

### WHY DO

## Architects Prefer



## L. L. SAMs and SONS

for assisting in creating

## DISTINCTIVE CHURCH FURNITURE

L. L. Sams & Sons provides to the architect more than 60 years of experience, devoted exclusively to the design and manufacture of fine church furniture.

L. L. Sams & Sons provides to the architect a planning council to render courteous assistance in seating arrangements, specifications, church symbolisms and wood carvings.

L. L. Sams & Sons provides proven dependability, professional integrity and close adherence to architectural requirements, delivery schedules and budget allowances.

May we be of assistance to you!

Our 60th Year

**L. L. SAMs**

AND SONS

WACO, TEXAS



# 17 MILLION AMERICANS LIVE IN SLUMS

Economic prosperity has worsened rather than curbed the slum problem in America's big cities, Fortune magazine says in a recent article of interest to all Texans because of our booming urban population.

According to the magazine there are now more than 17 million Americans living in virtual squalor in the nation's metropolitan areas.

Fortune says the slums have spread because there are "jobs to be had." The "very vitality" of the big city is "responsible" for luring laborers and semi-skilled workers into the undesirable living areas of the large industrial centers.

The report is the fourth in Fortune's major series on the problems of this country's "exploding" metropolitan areas.

Fortune says that migrants are drawn to the city by the promise of better paying jobs. Because they are usually members of racial minorities they are forced to live in already run-down areas where the dwellings are "decayed, dirty, rat infested, without decent heat, light or plumbing."

Slum formation is not primarily a "matter of race", however, the magazine report says. "It is the impoverished rural background of the immigrants that counts." They are unfamiliar with city living and create slums as they go.

## New Housing Needed

Only if cities can "generate new housing on a large scale," Fortune contends, can they hope to arrest the growth of slums. The magazine says there is "widespread discouragement" and "disillusionment" among city planners with the government's renewal and slum clearance programs.

The federal public-housing program is not in good shape, says Fortune. Public apartment projects have cost so much that "it might have been cheaper in some cases for the government simply to give each tenant a \$10,000 or \$12,000 house in the suburbs."

Fortune reports that the Title I redevelopment program of the 1949 Housing Act, while a major tool, has moved "very slowly" with projects completed in only six cities. Too few investors have participated in the program.

Fortune calls for greater efforts to stimulate private investors to participate in slum rebuilding.

It suggests these steps:

Insurance companies and other financial institutions should be encouraged to put up equity capital as well as mortgage money.

Businessmen might form local investment trusts to stimulate residential building. In Cleveland a group of industrialists have organized a Cleveland Development Foundation to help finance builders unable to find the equity money ordinarily required.

Investors might be given the right to lease cleared land, perhaps with an option to buy later.

Metropolitan building codes, which are now generally stricter in the central cities than in outlying areas could be equalized and modernized.

Outlying areas might somehow be made to take on some of the tax burden now carried by city real estate.

Put land-use planning on a metropolitan area basis, and give investors better information as to the opportunities available in the areas.

Finally, and perhaps most important, an expansion of the federal government's anti-slum effort.

Fortune says that the real core of the problem might possibly be that "Americans simply do not care enough about the city slum problem to tackle it in a big way, which is also the expensive way."

Just "nibbling" at the problem, the magazine observes, "may well prove more expensive to the cities' health in the long run. To this can be added the vast, immeasurable price that is exacted in human dignity. One way or another, we will continue to pay plenty for our slums."

## Santa Fe Builder Destroys Own Sign

Some scenery-loving citizens of Santa Fe, N. M., recently used a power saw to cut down seven big billboards along U. S. highway 285. Home Builder Allen Stamm, whose nearby billboard advertising his housing tract was spared, decided good public relations outweighed good advertising. With two of his office staff he ripped the sign down, promptly got congratulations from many citizens and concluded: "I feel this will definitely help sales." His advice to other builders: give thought to removing directional signs before the public comes to regard them as eyesores.



William R. Orr, stands atop his reinforced fiberglass arch to prove its strength during the open house inspection of this unique structural design, by Structural Plastics, Inc. The arch, which is constructed of hyperbolic paraboloidal sections is 62 feet long, and 16 feet wide. It will be part of the Structural Plastics, Inc. production plant, soon to be constructed in Stephenville, Texas, which will be the world's first all-fiberglass building.

## FIBERGLASS MAKES CONSTRUCTION DEBUT

Various sections of Texas construction industry and public officials were present at the recent open house inspection of a reinforced fiberglass arch designed and constructed by Structural Plastics, Inc.

The inspection of this unique application of plastics to construction was held at Structural Plastics, Inc. home office, 4907 Ohio Garden Road, Fort Worth.

The arch which is constructed of hyperbolic paraboloidal sections of fiberglass reinforced plastic, represents a new innovation in the construction of roofs and other building surfaces. It will also be part of the world's first all-fiberglass building, Structural Plastics, Inc. production plant soon to be constructed in Stephenville, Texas.

This type of fiberglass construction contains within itself the basic structure, insulation, waterproofing, heat reflection, and inner ceiling and skylight that has always comprised conventional roofing and thereby eliminates tons of weight. It is also applicable to the construction of airplane hangars, warehouses, grain storage, schools, churches and just about any other type of structure.

During the inspection, William R. Orr, President of Structural Plastics, Inc. climbed up on the arch to demonstrate its strength. Orr informed the visiting group that during load testing, the arch supported over 1,000 pounds concentrated load.



# ASA Pursues New Uniform Code At NYC Meeting

Representatives of 83 organizations with an interest in home building met in New York City recently to discuss whether a project for the development of a uniform set of building code requirements for one and two-family houses should be launched under the procedures of the American Standards Association.

The motion proposed to the meeting was: Shall an American Standard Association Project on Standard Building Code Requirements for one and two-family residences be initiated?

Fifteen of the organizations present said they would cast their vote by letter. The count on the other votes was as follows: yes, 24; no, 17; not voting, 27.

## Decision Awaits Ballots

The decision of whether the motion was carried will be deferred by the Construction Standard Board of the American Standards Association until the letter votes are received, Cyril Ainsworth, deputy managing director of the association announced.

The original request for the development of residential building codes was made to the American Standards Association last July by publisher Henry R. Luce on behalf of 14 national organizations concerned with home building.

Mr. Luce, who was present at today's meeting, pointed out that antiquated and contradictory building codes may add an average \$1000 to each American home built.

As a result of Mr. Luce's request, the American Standards Association invited about 120 national organizations with an interest in home building to attend the general conference.

The American Standards Association is the national coordinating agency and clearinghouse for standards in the United States. It is a federation of 119 trade associations and professional societies, and it has more than 2,000 company members. The association provides systematic means for the development of voluntary standards in the United States.

July Construction Contracts  
Up Substantially Over  
Year Ago At \$249,000,000

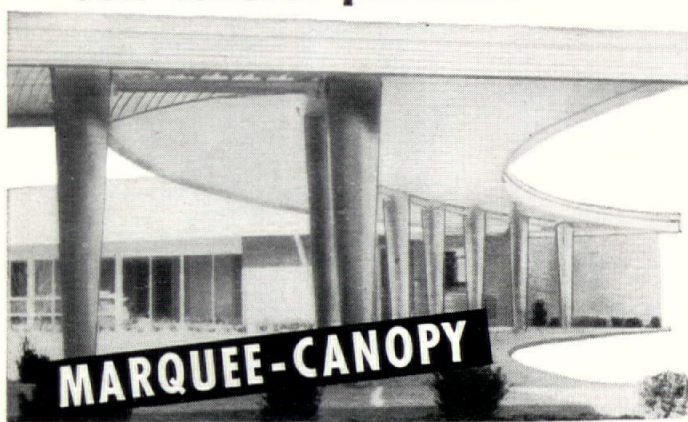
July contracts for future construction in Texas amounted to \$248,911,000, a substantial increase over July 1957, F. W. Dodge Corporation, reported.

According to Dodge figures, a breakdown of contracts by the major construction categories in July, compared to the like month of 1957, showed: non-residential at \$117,586,000, up substantially; residential at \$91,192,000, up 29 per cent; and heavy engineering at \$40,133,000, also up substantially.

## 21% Increase

The cumulative total of contracts for the first seven months of 1958 amounted to \$1,264,669,000, up 21 per cent from the like 1957 period. Cumulative total of contracts in the major construction categories showed: non-residential at \$421,329,000, up 40 per cent; residential at \$514,239,000, up 19 per cent; and heavy engineering at \$329,101,000, up 4 per cent.

## McKINLEY sun control products



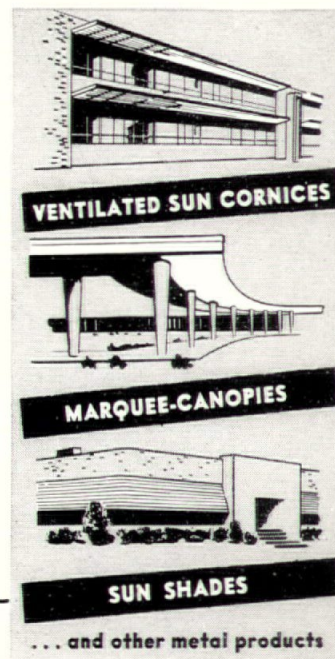
*"finest under the sun!"*

• all-weather protection • attractive appearance • minimum maintenance.

Designed by sun-control engineers for architect and builder—skillfully made of lifetime aluminum. For details, contact your McKinley Representative—see Sweet's Architectural File 19e/Mc.



designed and manufactured by the O.O. **McKINLEY** CO., INC. • Indianapolis 5, Ind.





# NEW PRODUCTS

The traditional three "R's" of the classroom are being joined and assisted by three "M's"—Modern, Maneuverable and Magnetic steel chalkboards—a unique "blackboard" which is not only superior in write-ability but also lends itself to numerous applications unknown to the old slate and composition products.

Steel chalkboards have been tried and tested in modern buildings and have proven so successful that the U.S. Air Force has ordered 160,000 square feet of chalkboard for its new academy at Colorado Springs, Colo. The 6,000 individual panels to be installed at the academy will contain 252 tons of various steels — among which is USS Vitrenamel, a special analysis steel developed by the U.S. Steel Corp. and particularly well suited for porcelain enameling and firing at high temperatures.

These porcelain enameled steel boards are produced by the Enamel Products Co., 341 Eddy Road, Cleveland, under the trade name KOROK. Here a glass frit is sprayed on the special analysis steel and is actually fused with USS Vitrenamel, giving the product a durable and lasting quality. This enameled sheet then becomes the outside of a sandwich buildup of a one-inch plywood board plus a galvanized steel backing.

In taking full advantage of this all-purpose board, the academy will suspend the steel chalkboards on rollers and use them as sliding closet doors and room partitions. They will also use the chalkboards for tactical demonstrations by merely attaching cutouts to the steel boards with tiny magnets—another unique feature of this modern "blackboard."

And thanks to a special adhesive paste, developed by Enamel Products Co., steel chalkboards are not only being incorporated in modern buildings but are also being used to replace slate and composition boards in older installations. The chalkboard is simply cut to size and placed directly over the worn-out surface.

Exhaustive tests have proven that steel chalkboards far superior in life expectancy—to the extent of being guaranteed for the life of the build-

ing. And there is no squeak or chatter from the chalk!

★ ★ ★

A new pattern in Azrock asphalt tile, to be known as "Carpet Tones", has been announced by the Azrock Products Division Uvalde Rock Asphalt Company. The new pattern gives a textured effect closely stimulating the appearance of carpeting.

Initially, four members will be manufactured. They are: K-581, Pebble Beach, brown and white textured effect on tan; K-582, Exmoor, gray and white on green; K-584, St. Andrews, pink, brown and white on gray; K-587, Gleneagle, russet, green, and white on gray. Azrock Carpet Tones is available in 1/8" thickness, 9"x9" size, and will be priced in the "K" group.

Before going ahead with full scale production, the Azrock Products Division conducted a thorough market test on the "Carpet Tones". The enthusiastic response of dealers and builders in the test market was responsible for the company's decision to proceed with the new pattern.

Samples are being sent to Azrock dealers. Additional samples and information may be obtained through Azrock wholesale distributors, or from the Azrock Products Division, San Antonio.

★ ★ ★

A new bank burglar alarm, said to be the first of its type to provide full protection for one or more areas, has been introduced by the Mosler Safe Company.

Called the Mosler Century alarm, it will be shown for the first time at the American Bankers Association convention in Chicago.

The vault alarm provides flexibility. It can tie in with night depositories, extra vaults and vault doors, and can protect the building itself, including monitoring of the sprinkler system.

According to Edwin H. Mosler Jr., president of the 110-year old firm, it is the first Grade "A" alarm equipped with a transistorized audio amplifier. Approved by the Underwriters' Laboratories the alarm can earn up to 65 per cent discount on specific burglary insurance. The system can be easily installed in existing buildings or in new construction.

## Atlanta Ordinance Saves Subdivision Trees

Atlanta has stumbled on a way to save trees in new subdivisions, HOUSE & HOME, professional magazine of the home building industry reports. An ordinance was recently passed making it illegal to burn trees or roots on construction sites. Purpose of the law was fire prevention. Now, grading subcontractors have found it cheaper to let trees stand than to bulldoze them down and haul them away.

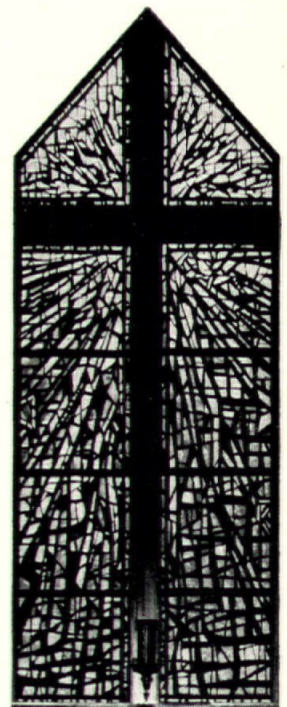
## ADVERTISERS' INDEX

Wm. Cameron .....	8
Kaiser Fur-Tex .....	2
McKinley Company .....	11
National Electrical Contractors Assn. ....	CIII
Studios of George L. Payne .....	12
Portland Cement Assoc. ....	CII
L. L. Sams & Sons .....	9
Soule' Steel .....	6,7
Stran Steel .....	5
Trinity White Division .....	CIV

## FRENCH MOSAIC STAINED GLASS

designed by  
Pierre  
Millous,

produced in our studios in Chartres, France.



Contemporary windows and walls  
of incredible color with this glass...  
1" thick, set in reinforced cement.

Samples of glass on request.

**The Studios of George L. PAYNE**  
American Address: 15 Prince Street, Paterson 3, N. J.



# NECA CONTRACTORS READY TO SERVE YOU

## Houston

Tel. No.

J. W. Aldis Elec. Co.	UN 2-6956
Balcke Elec. Co.	CA 7-8523
Beacon Elec. Co.	UN 9-1463
Bradley Elec. Co.	UN 9-3737
Britain Elec. Co.	CA 8-6635
The Alan Cooke Co.	CA 2-0202
J. S. Copeland Elec. Co., Inc.	FA 3-6358
J. A. Darby Elec. Co.	CA 2-9001
Davidson, J. W. Elec. Co.	CA 2-9839
Diamond Elec. Co.	CA 8-6684
R. W. Dickson Elec. Co.	FA 3-0317
Electrical Constructors, Inc.	CA 2-2000
Electro Lines	CA 2-6577
Fischbach & Moore, Inc.	FA 3-7371
Fisk Elec. Co.	JA 3-8103
Guy Fisk Elec. Co.	ME 5-5228
Howard P. Foley Co.	MI 5-6683
Harry A. Getz Elec. Co.	JA 3-5513
Gulf Coast Elec. Co.	MI 5-7124
Gulf Electric Co.	JA 3-1655
Hallmark Elec. Co.	JA 6-1431
Henry, Bill, Elec. Co.	CA 7-9293
Herbrig & Wohlt Elec. Co.	JA 9-4285
Hirsh Elec. Co.	WA 3-4616
Keystone Elec. Co.	WA 3-9178
Kirk Elec. Co.	JA 9-7819
Meldrum Elec. Co.	CA 4-7659
Muhl Elec. Co.	UN 4-7739
Murray Elec. Co.	CA 3-4567
Pfeiffer Elec. Co.	GR 9-2881
Powell & Stephenson	WA 3-7671
Seiders Electric Co.	CA 2-6144
Texas Electrical Constr. Co.	MI 4-5375
Waggoner Elec. Co.	WA 1-7751
Wood, Harper, Elec. Co.	CA 2-2275

## Baytown

Gulf Coast Elec. Co.	JU 2-8337
Massey Elec. Co.	JU 2-2360

## Galveston

Britain Elec. of Galveston	SO 5-6683
F & N Elec. Co.	SO 3-5159
Hopkins Elec. Co.	SO 5-6123
Mainland Galveston Electric	SO 2-5858
Pfeiffer Elec. Co.	SO 3-1658
Southern Elec. Co.	SO 2-7823

## La Marque

Crescent Elec. Co.	3-2416
--------------------	--------

## Texas City

Pfeiffer Elec. Co.	5-6881
Wagner Elec. Shop	5-2433

## Beaumont

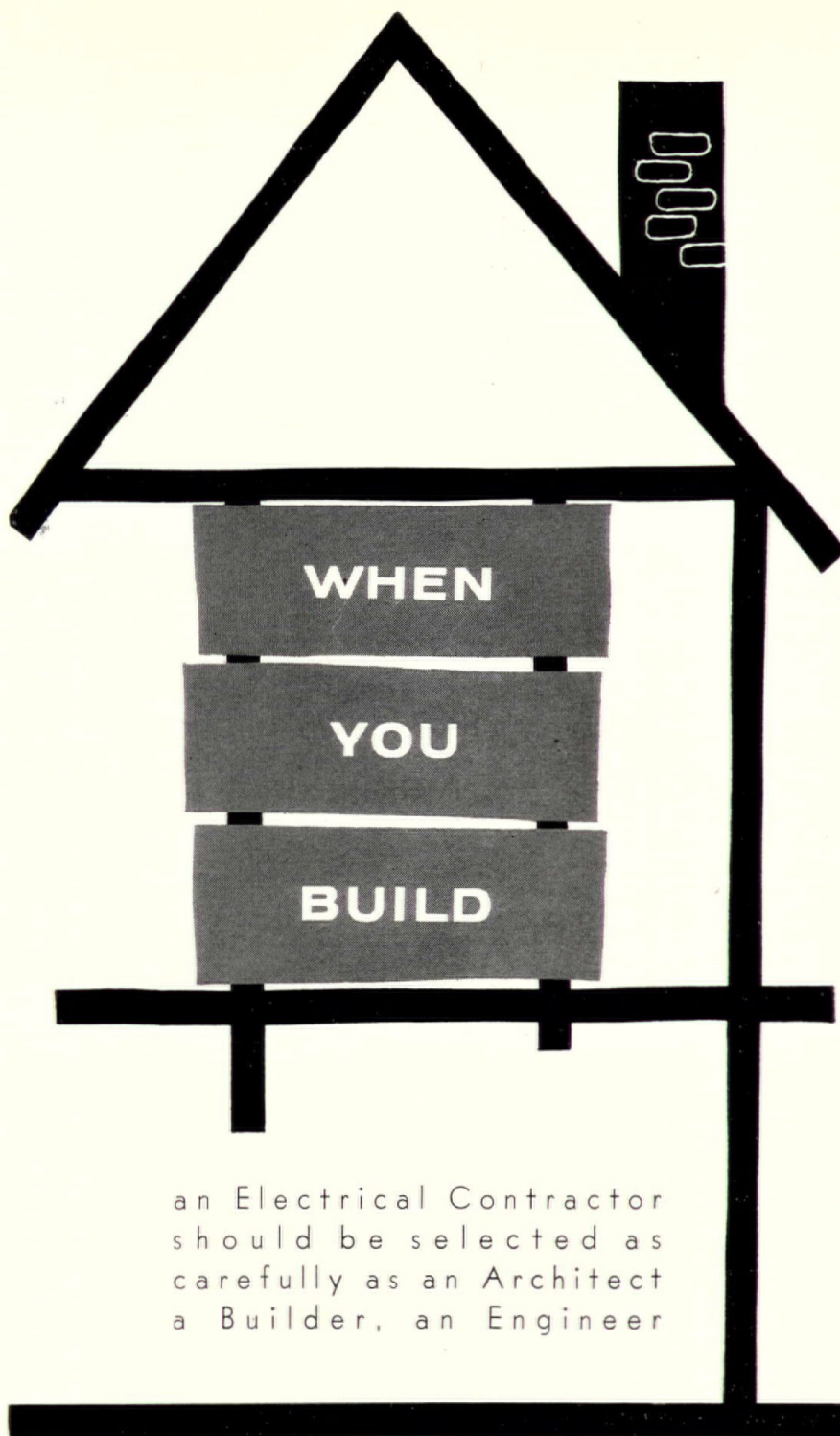
Blanton Elec. Co.	TE 5-1405
Broach Elec. Co.	TE 5-4111
C & C Elec. Co.	TE 8-4751
Crabtree, E. J., Elec. Co.	TE 8-3381
Eldridge Elec. Co.	TE 2-3463
Gulf Coast Elec. Co.	TE 3-2828
Hinote Elec. Co.	TE 2-0261
Lamar Elec. Co.	TE 8-4545
Neches Elec. Co.	TE 5-2120
Thompson, H. A., Elec. Co.	TE 3-2646

## Port Arthur

Hinote Elec. Co.	YU 3-7861
Lorenz-Carter Elec. Co.	YU 2-5432
Doc Raby's Elec. Co.	YU 3-3517
Sabine Elec. Co.	YU 3-5652
Sonnier Elec. Co.	YU 3-7471
Orange Office	6-2771
Stonebuner-Yerret Elec. Co.	YU 2-4113
Walker Neo's Co.	YU 5-8422

## Port Neches, Texas

Wright's Elec. Shop	3642
---------------------	------



an Electrical Contractor  
should be selected as  
carefully as an Architect  
a Builder, an Engineer

## NATIONAL ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION

Southeast Texas Chapter ..... Richmond at Yoakum  
Houston JA 9-6131





LIBRARY  
THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS  
1714 NEW YORK AVENUE, N. W.  
WASHINGTON 6, D. C.

Section 34.00 P. L. & R.  
U. S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
FORT WORTH, TEXAS  
PERMIT No. 2037



**ARCHITECTURAL Concrete Units** add much beauty and distinction to the comforts and conveniences of modern office buildings. The units shown here are made with Trinity White Cement. This is a true portland cement. It is the whitest of the whites. Units are effective in stark, unrelieved white; or with exposed colored aggregates; or with pigment integrally mixed with the cement.

General Office Building, Shopping Bag Food Stores, Inc. • El Monte, Calif. • Architect: H. W. Underhill, Los Angeles • General Contractor: Ernest W. Hahn, Inc., Hawthorne, Calif. • Concrete Products Manufacturer: C. D. Wailes Co., Sun Valley, Calif.

# Trinity White

PORTLAND CEMENT

A Product of GENERAL PORTLAND CEMENT CO., Chicago • Dallas • Chattanooga • Tampa • Los Angeles